



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE  
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20850

Isiah Leggett  
*County Executive*

February 24, 2011

Mr. John Carman  
Chair, Montgomery County BRAC  
Implementation Committee  
101 Monroe Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear John:

Thank you for your letter of February 18, 2011 on behalf of the BRAC Implementation Committee (BIC) in support of increased funding for Transportation Demand Management (TDM) programs in Montgomery County.

I hear you. The impending implementation of the federally mandated Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) at the National Naval Medical Center will bring significant increases of traffic and congestion to Bethesda which cannot be sustained by the existing transportation network. There must be an increased emphasis on transit and other alternatives to commuting by single occupancy vehicles.

The BIC has been an integral part of the planning process which has developed medium- and long-term projects to help mitigate BRAC-related gridlock, including the State Highway Administration's intersections improvements, the County's Rockville Pike/MD 355 Crossing Project, and renovations and additions to the area's network of bicycle trails and sidewalks. But these projects cannot all be implemented in the near term, and TDM offers solutions that are already in place and can help alleviate BRAC-related congestion now – if employers and commuters are aware of the benefits of TDM and if these benefits remain available.

I and the County Council recognize that the County's economic vitality and quality of life will be emboldened with a forward-looking commitment to transit and other alternatives to untenable traffic and congestion. To that end I recently appointed a Transit Implementation Task Force that will explore innovative ways to identify funding outside the County budget for major transit projects, such as the Purple Line, the Corridor Cities Transitway, and a County-wide Bus Rapid Transit network.

But we need to maintain a robust TDM program that can have an impact now and be sustained, certainly as it applies to BRAC in Bethesda. As you know, however, the County faces significant budget constraints in the face of the economic downturn. In recent years the Council and I have been forced to make painful cuts to essential services. We will be working together to

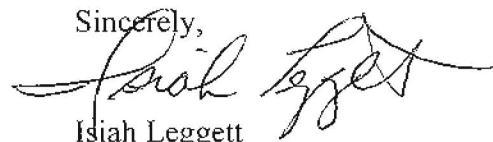
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craft a budget for the next fiscal year that sets a course towards fiscal stability while providing essential services.

With that in mind, I will do my best to see that Transportation Demand Management receives its fair share of funding.

Again, I appreciate the hard work and commitment that you and the members of the BRAC Implementation Committee have demonstrated over the past four years.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Isiah Leggett', written in a cursive style.

Isiah Leggett  
County Executive